

Established

by

Edward
Sawyer

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HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Apr- MAY

-Paul Wingle
"MAY, a month of beautiful flowers;
Which to ants, seem like colossal
towers."



JEAN BRENNAN Chairman.

Beginning with this issue we are going to use a numbering sequence instead of using a monthly designation. This is # 68 which also means that since we began printing the Crimpville Comments officially by the Commission in February of 1973, 67 previous issues have been printed to date. Budget problems along with overloading the school with more work than the Graphic Arts class can handle has necessitated this change. We shall try to get as many printed as possible so please follow the numbers hereafter. We are now starting our eighth year bringing to you an assortment of past and present Bellingham history. Thank you for your help and interest.



Photo courtesy Maurice Patrick



One hundred and fifty years ago according to the map above we note that only three buildings existed in that large triangle ! Compare that to today and one gets an idea of the enormous growth in Town. Solomon Wright was the owner, pictured above and shown on the map of 1830. Otis Bates was located on the second corner while the newly built Baptist Church (1826) appears on the other. Mechanic Street along with the street railway line turned the corner at this house before the road was made over further through the swale. The railway also crossed the road there to be on the right side of the street as far as "Grand View" corner. Coming up from Unionville, where the power house was operating, the railway ran along the left side of the road up as far as the corner mentioned above. On all of the maps from 1830 through 1876 this property was owned by the Wright family. However in 1858 a boot shop was also located there. In 1887 George Gaskill was assessed for the property. Various owners had it until Olivine Boivin took it over in the 1921 assessment report. In the early days of this century after Mr. Boivin became owner it was commonly referred to as the "Drinkwine" place. Most of us could not properly pronounce the name in French ! Also the English translation carried with it a pleasing and very special reference point that was above the ordinary used in most cases. Here was where the Ray Patrick and Anna (Boivin) family got their roots to be good and industrious citizens. Somehow this old house of more than 150 years generated within its antiquity a solid reminder of the past that rubbed off onto its inhabitants. May it be there for ages to foster future generations to continue to be fine citizens, proud of their heritage.

School Committee Women

Some women have had the courage to invade a "man's world" and one very important area has been the School Committee position where they could become involved in the proper education of Bellingham youth. We salute these dedicated women by letting you know herein just who they were.

Mary W. Metcalf 1880-1883 Secretary of the Board in 1882.

Cora E. Rhodes 1921-1927

Esther D. Copeland 1925-1928

Kathryn Garriepy 1944-1947

Lynda V. Martell 1979-

No previous woman up to the present has had the enormous problems facing them that are so vital to keeping such a large department functioning harmoniously under conditions never dreamed of ever before; having to contend with low morality, drugs, TV, and assorted diversionary tactics to lure a child away from common sense and the need to have a good, well founded education that will broaden their knowledge of this world and give them the security which they have a right to inherit. The responsibility placed on this last lady as well as other members of the Committee are beyond comprehension and need all the support of other parents.

Town Reports

They were first printed in 1869 to 1890 with the fiscal year ending around February 20. In 1891 through 1914 the fiscal year cut off date was February 1st. Then in 1914 there was a short year as it changed to the "calendar" year, Feb. 1 to Dec. 31, 1914. Since then the "Calendar" year has been used even though the State pulled a fast one and changed theirs to July 1 in order to get more tax money from the people! Beginning in 1892 the Town Clerk reported the "Action" taken during the previous town meetings on the Warrant until 1898. (Feb.) For some unknown reason this was omitted from 1899 through 1909. (Feb.) Then in 1910 subsequent reports carried detailed accountings of doings by the townspeople relative to the Warrants. This should help researchers to know just what and when they can find certain information.

Elevation (above sea level)

The U. S. Geodetic survey maps make available any elevation desired at a glance. Below are random listings of elevation (height) at specific points in Bellingham.

Center, Fire Station			
Police Sta.	293'	High St. area back of	
St. Blaise Church	350'	"Rockledge"	300'
Memorial School	330'	Hartford Ave./Nason St.	264'
Silver Lake	214'	" / Farm St.	256'
Lake Hiawatha	229'	Pulaski Blvd./Lake St.	198'
Box Pond	222' *	" / Center St.	207'
Beaver Pond	237'	" / Locust St.	257'
Lakeview Pond	292'	Lake St./Railroad St.	227'
Bald Hill (Franklin)	470'	" " / Wrentham St.	224'
" " (Bellingham)	390'	So. Main St./Chestnut St.	343'
Scott Hill	350'	" " / Center St.	340'
Saddleback Hill	410'	" " / Blackstone St.	338'
Crook's Corner	192'	Maple St. / Lake St.	258'
Bellingham Four Corners	268'	" " / High St.	247'
American Legion Home	330'	Blackstone St./North St.	317'
North Bellingham	206'	Charles River/High St.	206'
Caryville (P.O.)	200'	" " / No. Main St.	222' *
Crimpville		Pine St./Maple St.	232'
(Rockledge store)	250'	Depot/Grove/Hartford Ave.	255'
		"Red mill" location	210'

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You may question as I do. If Box Pond is 222' and the same height is at the North Main Street bridge then how can the river flow downstream if it's at the same level? Where there is a 12 foot drop at the old red mill site from Box Pond then one has to conclude that there must be several feet difference than shown on the map.

Watch Out!

Big Sister: "Johnny, run up to my room and get my watch."

Johnny: "Gee whiz, Sis, why bother. Leave it alone and it'll run down itself."

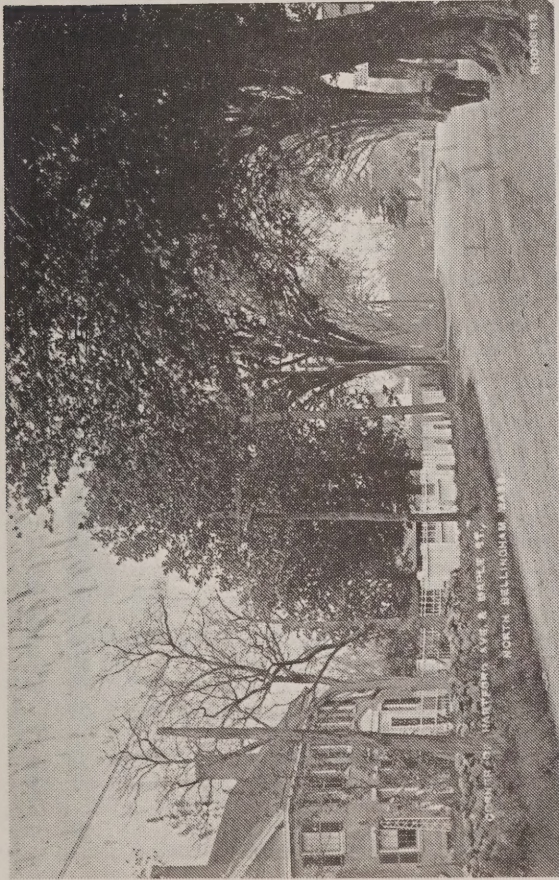
Big Sister: "No it won't, we have a winding staircase!"

HE AIMS TO PLEASE

MRS. NEWLYWED: I'd like a dozen eggs suitable for hard-boiling. page 2
GROCER: I have just the kind you want, madam—Plymouth Rock eggs!

WEDDING YELLS

"IN THAT wedding ceremony I promised to cherish you," said the groom of two hours' experience. "What does that mean?"
"Oh," smiled the bride, "that simply signifies your willingness to wash dishes, wipe dust, and do the washing when I'm tired or busy or out calling."

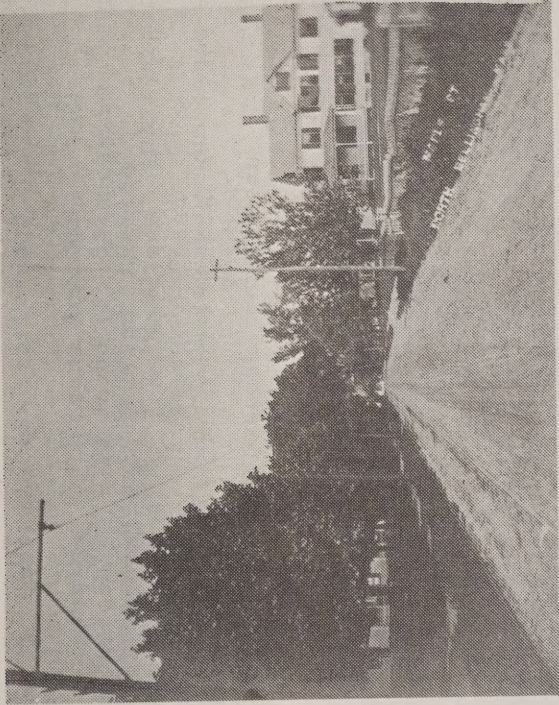


Hartford Avenue looking toward Caryville. Sign reads: "Maple St. Franklin, Wrentham." Otto Bullard residence on left side. Anyone know who the boys were ?

North Bellingham school sometime after it was erected in 1902. Same plan of construction as the Center school. Clara Macy taught here. Wonder who the boy was sitting on the wall ?

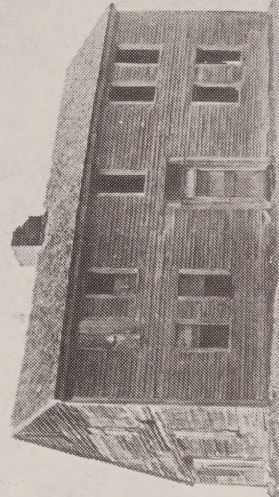


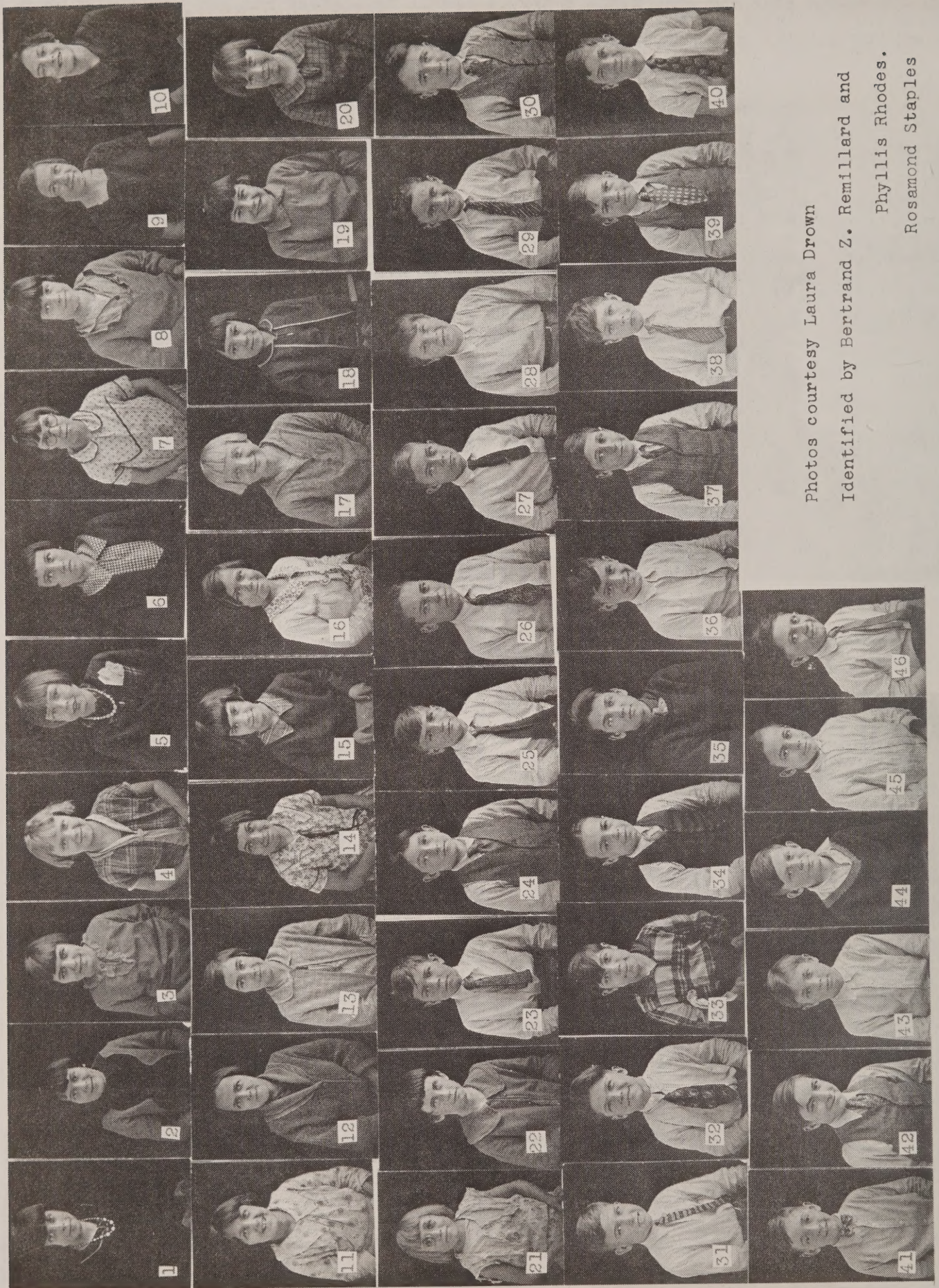
Early 1900's postcards courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. V.N.Voss of Tacoma Washington.



Maple Street looking North. Note trolley tracks.

The remains of the old 1747 Asa Burr homestead facing East on Maple street, about 1/2 mile from the "Four Corners". First house in this area. New houses have been built in this area. Asa was great-grandfather of Town Clerk Percy Burr and his sister, Lottie Burr Potter who lived to be 103 years old.





Photos courtesy Laura Drown

Identified by Bertrand Z. Remillard and

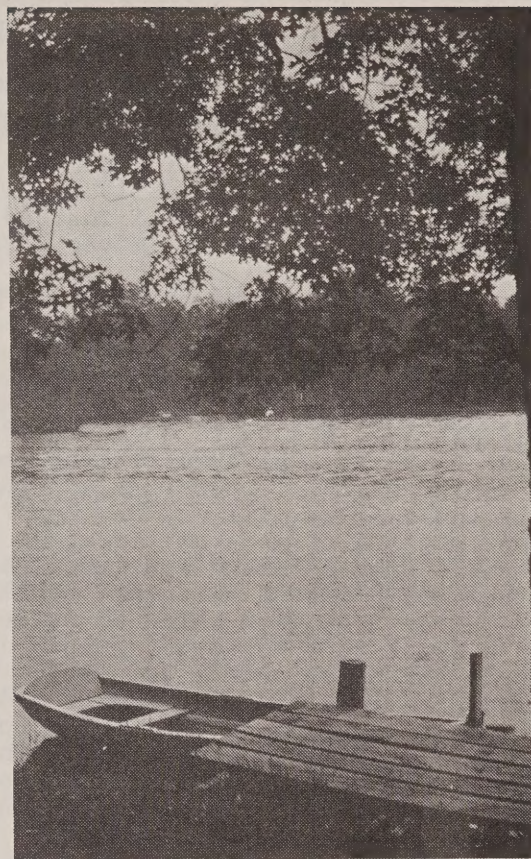
Phyllis Rhodes.

Rosamond Staples

Grade 3 South Bellingham for 1930-'31 Gertrude Rhodes, Teacher

Grade 3 South Bellingham for 1930-'31 Gertrude Rhodes, teacher

1 Angela Gigante	13 Florence Leblanc	27 Lamothe	39 Frank Kozimor
3 Rena Lavallee	15 Jeannette Rainey	28 Joseph Antosh	40 Joseph F. Spas
5 Rosamond Burr	16 Helen Kwiatowski	30 Normand Larochelle	42 Wilfred Lavallee
6 Cecile Ouellette	20 Helen Garneau	32 Raymond Champagne	43 John Wasylean
7 Simone Rainey	21 Chandler	34 Adelard Leblanc	44 Eugene Garneau
8 Emma Beauregarde	22 Cecile Bernier	35 Henry Bernier	45 Raymond Phaneuf
11 Bernier	25 Albert Marchand	37 Raymond Lytwinkel	46 Leandro Rotatori
12 Bernier	26 Albert Lussier	38 Morton Schafer	



1917 Box Pond Views 1917

Post Cards courtesy Mrs. John Brown.

From the above view of what was left at the dam in 1917
we note that the "Box Mill" is gone and the dam itself is
in poor condition.

MEMORIAL DAY--is to remember those who served,
died and suffered for our freedom.
The wounded are still with us.

How did "Box Pond" get its name ?

All of us in this century have known it as "Box Pond". Yet, maps as late as 1888 referred to that section and further along as the "Charles River". No mention was made that connected it with "boxes" or "box making". On the 1830 map there appears a saw mill and a grist mill along the stream. No dam yet. The 1853 map shows a dam has been added with two saw mills below it. This seems to be an error in that one of them must have been a grist mill instead. Now in 1858 only one saw mill is shown. The single mill also appears on the 1876 map. Then on the 1888 map a grist mill is shown again.

In the Assessors records Seneca Burr is taxed for a saw and grist mill in 1860. Then in 1871, James P. and Joseph G. Ray are taxed for both mills. Sometime prior to 1883, but after 1879 the sawmill burned as the 1883 report states a "new mill" and grist mill. In 1901 the property is now in the hands of the "heirs" of the Ray Brothers continuing through 1911 assessments. However in 1911 only one mill is listed and that does not state whether it is a grist or saw mill. Referring to a 1910 news paper there is a picture of "The Box Mill" so that now we know that the saw mill was no longer there. Therefore, according to the Assessors report, there had been a saw mill and a grist mill on "Box Pond" way back into the early 1800's even though they were left off of maps at times.

Where only a "mill" was listed on the 1911 tax list this may be the clue that now a "Box mill" was in existence somehow. Yet, we are confronted as to where they got the lumber from with which boxes were made! We turn to another angle on the mystery where Hazel Burr Forsberg, granddaughter of Seneca Burr, states that he was making boards for boxes on his saw mill. That her father, Willie A. Burr, as a young boy would arrive at the mill around midnight, load a wagon with box boards and take them over to a box mill in West Upton to be ready for the workers when they came in the morning to assemble the boxes. This could be the clue from which "Box Pond" got its name. By the way, young Willie travelled over the old "Middle Road" through Mendon from Depot street onto Hartford Avenue and then on the "Worcester-Taunton" turnpike to West Upton.

Now, for still another viewpoint, from Myrtle Spencer Van Note, she writes: "I remember it was always called "Box Pond" and I was told when a child there was once a "Box Mill" or factory somewhere along the shore of the Pond. I remember my parents speaking of the Mill when I was very young. There was a dam at the end where the water ran into the Charles River. This was a beautiful river and how I wish the dam at the Red Mill site could be rebuilt so that the river could be beautiful again." She continues reminiscing, "I used to go out in a row boat all over the river from the Crimpville bridge down. Also we used to skate there where it is now nothing but swamp. And it really, to me, seems a shame it cannot become the beautiful Charles once more." We heartily agree.

So now, can it be that the saw mill also made boxes near the turn of the century ? Thus there are two possibilities of how the name, "Box Pond" originated but we are puzzled about the 1910 picture clearly stating, "The Box Mill" as the very same mill that has been referred to as the "Grist Mill"!

MY BELOVED GRAM

Gram how well I remember
The things you did for me,
The way we talked of things
And your understanding me.

You told me of your girlhood
Out on your old back porch,
You told me of your animals
The cats, and dog and horse.

You treated me with tenderness
And listened to my rhymes,
You reminded me to remember
All my happy times.

You told me to be good
And not to throw my life away,
I always hated to go home
But knew I couldn't stay.

I remember picking wild flowers
When you took me for a walk.
And all the way to your friends
You always let me talk.

The stories of your childhood
Filled me with delight,
You told me stories at bedtime
Almost every night.

And Gram, though now you're gone
I would love to have you know
I thank God for having had you,
You helped my mind to grow.

By Isadora Andrews
daughter of Ella Cook,
niece of Myrtle Van Note.
Jan. 5, 1938

Addendum

In the November 1979 issue the heading on page 8 should be "South Bellingham Grades 5-6 for 1923-'24. Rose Cassidy Teacher."
In the June 1979 issue on page 3 this is also grade 6 (7-8). Additional pupil identity as follows: #3 Alice Allaire; #4 Rita Allaire; #14 Nicholas Zawred; #15 William Godin; #37 Marshall Kaye and #38 ? Ratti.

WORK

"My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it."

Abraham Lincoln. (Remember him ?)

Gold Star Mother

When Bobby started school
one day

I missed him much at first,
But early every afternoon
Into the house he'd burst.
He'd bring home pictures he had
drawn

Of birds and trees and
snow

And there up in the corner
A golden star would glow.

"For you," he'd always say
to me,

And I would praise him
much.

And tack it up upon the wall
'Mid recipes and such.

Well, this went on for many
years

And always there would be
A bright and shining golden
star

Especially for me.

And then the school days ended,

And Bobby was a man
And echoes of a distant war
Rolled across our land.

So Bobby donned a uniform
And went away to fight
And somewhere over England
He lost his life one night.

And I will never cease
to ask,

My heart just must be told,
"Why did you have to give
to me

This one last star of
gold?"

—Mary

CAMPAIGN

It's campaign time across the country. We can tell because the candidates can recognize us across the street. Also they have a temporary "Born again show" where they'll be seen in church before election time !

MIDDLE AGE

You know you've reached middle age when your weight lifting consists solely of standing up !

"SO THEY SAY"

The meek inheriting the earth is all right with most of us. The problem is how to keep them that way once they've taken over !

MICE

Let me give you this advice

On the art of catching mice:
Do not bait the trap with cheese,
Use instead just one of these:
Canned sardines or bacon fried,
Or peanut butter can be tried.

THE YEAR'S AT THE SPRING

Robert Browning

The year's at the spring
And the day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His Heaven-
All's right with the world !

Courtesy Florence McCracken

"GOLD STAR MOTHER"

Courtesy Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gadoury.

Don't be confused !

Due to conditions beyond our control the vocational school was unable to print our Crimpville Comments. The last issue that you had was for November 1979, #65. We are skipping around a bit for this issue is #67. However # 66 will follow after this one so that you will not miss any issue afterwards. Thank you for your patience for we know that you have been concerned and puzzled as to what happened to the "Comments". We also know and appreciate your enthusiasm when you inquire, "When is the next issue coming out ?" We have been frustrated by our inability to answer.

Lumber Record Broken.

Crooks Bros. of Bellingham, who are sawing for Mr. Westcott of Westcott's Mills, recently did some fast sawing,

making a record of 90,000 feet of 5-8 and 7-8 inch plus boards in six consecutive ten-hour work days. This is considered the best record for lumber of the above demensions in this vicinity. Their best

previous record was 145,000 in twelve days. **March 25, 1902**

CAUTION---read only at your own risk.

The Way it Was.

Dr. William H. Clark
Feb. 15, 1902

Here is an account of the accident that killed Dr. Clark at a crossing in South Milford by a train coming from the local depot as was reported in a Milford paper. Through the kindness of Mr. Fred Rhodes this report was taken from a book that had been kept by his mother to pass on to posterity. Note the detail of reporting in those days ! His wife and daughter were prominent members of the First Baptist Church of Bellingham in the center.

Quote--

"Dr. William H. Clark of Bellingham was instantly killed at the South Milford crossing of the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad, by the train due in Milford at 5:46 Saturday afternoon.

Dr. Clark, who is somewhat deaf, was driving toward Milford and apparently did not see or hear the approaching train.

The engine struck the horse squarely in the body, grinding the horse into a mass of mangled flesh. Dr. Clark was thrown some 15 feet, striking on his head on a pile of white stones at the foot of a post which bore the warning, "Look out for the engine."

The train stopped and the body was brought to Milford. Medical examiner Dr. Wm J. Clarke, after viewing the body, ordered its removal to the undertaking rooms of Emery & Wood on Exchange Street.

The dead man's skull was crushed in above the left ear and one hip was fractured, these being the only marks on the body. The contusion on the head was about 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

Conductor Horace P. Pond and Engineer Leon Prance were in charge of the train.

Dr. Clark was dead when picked up.

As the doctor was leaving Bellingham to come to Milford he was hailed by George Thayer, who wanted a ride into Milford. Apparently the doctor did not hear the shout, for he kept on. Then Mr. Thayer boarded the train that soon afterward killed his friend.

An eyewitness of the accident at the crossing said that Dr. Clark had good opportunity for seeing the approaching train. It appeared as if his deafness must have kept him from hearing the train and that he did not look to see if a train was coming along.

The dead man was 51 years old, and leaves a wife and daughter. He graduated from New York University in 1882 and practiced in Milford for a few months afterward, then going to Ipswich where he was until 1897. Then he went to Bellingham.

After the remains were brought to Milford and placed in the baggage room of the N. Y., N. H. & H. road, valuables and papers were taken from his person and taken charge of by Station Agent Mullane for the widow. The watch did not cease going through the entire accident.

Dr. Wm Henry Clark, the unfortunate victim was born in Tolland, Ct. July 14, 1850, the son of Wm. and Lucinda Vinton Clark. The funeral will be Wednesday at his late home at 2 P. M."

The reporter was very observant to note that the watch had not stopped! One can see how cruel Fate can be from the above accident for if the good doctor had stopped to pick up Mr. Thayer this would have delayed him enough to avoid the tragedy and also provide him with another pair of good ears. Bellingham had more than its share of deaths due to failure to "Stop, look and listen" as these iron giants came rushing along to inflict death and destruction carrying their precious human cargo to somewhere.

Bellingham Historical Commission
Town Hall Bellingham, MA. 02019